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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F15.09 for Home Playground Equipment

DATE OF MEETING: June 4-5, 1996 **PLACE:** ASTM Headquarters
W. Conshohocken, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES *qap*

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Teri Hendy, Site Masters	Donna Thompson, Univ. of N. Iowa
Jean Schappet, Woodset	Matt Bolland, Swing-N-Slide
Ted Illges, Woodcarpet	Carl McKee, Rainbow Play Systems
Guy Lyon, Little Tikes	Paul Brogan, Hedstrom
Francis Pavolko, Hedstrom	Tom Mazurek, Fisher-Price
Jim Stoklosa, Fisher-Price	Kent Neal, Roadmaster
Werner Frietag, Consumer	Margie Lawlor, ASTM

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The chairman shared correspondence received since the last meeting. An appeal has been filed with the Committee on Standards by Thom Thompson regarding the disposition of two negative votes he had cast in a ballot of revisions to the F1148 standard.

A letter from Larry Voelker expressing concerns about swing spacing was given to a working group that is addressing this issue.

A phone call from Kevin McKenzie of CSA informed the chairman that the Canadians are interested in developing a standard for residential playground equipment. A motion was approved to direct the chairman to work with Canada in developing one common standard.

In reports from others working on playground safety issues, John Preston noted that CPSC had responded to the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs regarding their petition for a mandatory standard. He said that the Commission had voted 2-1 to accept a staff recommendation to deny four specific requests in the petition and to defer a decision on five other requests that are being considered by the F15.09 subcommittee as additions to the F1148 standard. These are information to consumers regarding acceptable surfacing, guardrails on platforms over 30 inches high, multiple-occupancy swing impact requirements, prohibit free swinging ropes and require play sets with one or more swings to be anchored.



Preston noted a recent strangulation death on a rope tied to a backyard play set in Maryland and a near death due to similar circumstances in Hamilton, Ohio. Preston distributed copies of Home Playground Safety Tips that CPSC public affairs staff had developed to respond to consumer inquiries.

New Business:

A motion was approved to add the definition of rigid material that is in the toy safety standard (ASTM F963) to the F1148 standard.

In response to the CPSC staff concern about anchoring, the following new language was developed for the anchoring instructions at 8.2.3:

Equipment which is required by the manufacturer to be anchored, either in concrete or by ground anchors not provided with the equipment shall have a statement informing the consumer that the product must be anchored and that the anchors are sold separately. This statement shall be prominently displayed (1) on the shipping carton, (2) in the instructions, (3) on the point of purchase display and (4) in promotional materials, informing the consumer that the product must be anchored. Such equipment shall be accompanied by detailed instructions on how the anchoring is to be accomplished to prevent tipping, overturning or lifting of the support members during anticipated use. The instructions shall include information on anchoring in sandy soil conditions. The instructions shall also state that all anchoring devices must be placed below the level of the playing surface to prevent tripping or injury resulting from a fall.

A motion was approved to add the following language to address strangulation on free swinging ropes:

5.9.1 A suspended climbing rope, chain or cable shall be secured at both ends to prevent the rope, chain or cable from being looped back on itself. A rope, chain or cable which is used to support a swing is exempt.

After approval of the above motion, it was felt that there should be an instruction to consumers to insure that any rope, chain or cable remains in good repair. Accordingly the following warnings were approved:

8.3.12 Warning the buyer to verify that a suspended climbing rope chain or cable is secured at both ends.

8.3.13 Warning the buyer to verify that a suspended rope, chain or cable cannot be looped back on itself.

There was discussion on loading conditions for platforms. Loading requirements were developed in which platforms would be divided into four equal area quadrants and the total load would be applied in equal portions to the center of each quadrant and to the geometric center point of the platform. It was agreed that Table 3, which previously stated the weights of 50th and 95th percentile children from 1½ years to 10 years of age, would be changed to include the area occupied by children of different ages. A motion was approved to make these changes.

In a discussion on Thom Thompson's concern regarding swing spacing, it was agreed that this would be taken into consideration when the section on swing spacing is next revised. Members present at the meeting did not agree with Mr. Thompson's objection to the change in scope that would permit the use of playground equipment conforming to the F1148 standard in private homes that provide day care for no more than six children.

The next meeting of the subcommittee will be held on Monday and Tuesday, September 9-10, 1996. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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